

THE COAST NEWS

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The Coast News is a legally adjudicated newspaper published weekly on Fridays by The Coast News Group. It is qualified to publish notices required by law to be published in a newspaper of general circulation (Case No. 677114).

Op-Ed submissions: To submit letters and commentaries, please send all materials to editor@coastnewsgroup.com. Letters should be 250 to 300 words and commentaries limited to no more than 550 words. Please use "Letters," or "Commentary" in the subject line. All submissions should be relevant and respectful.

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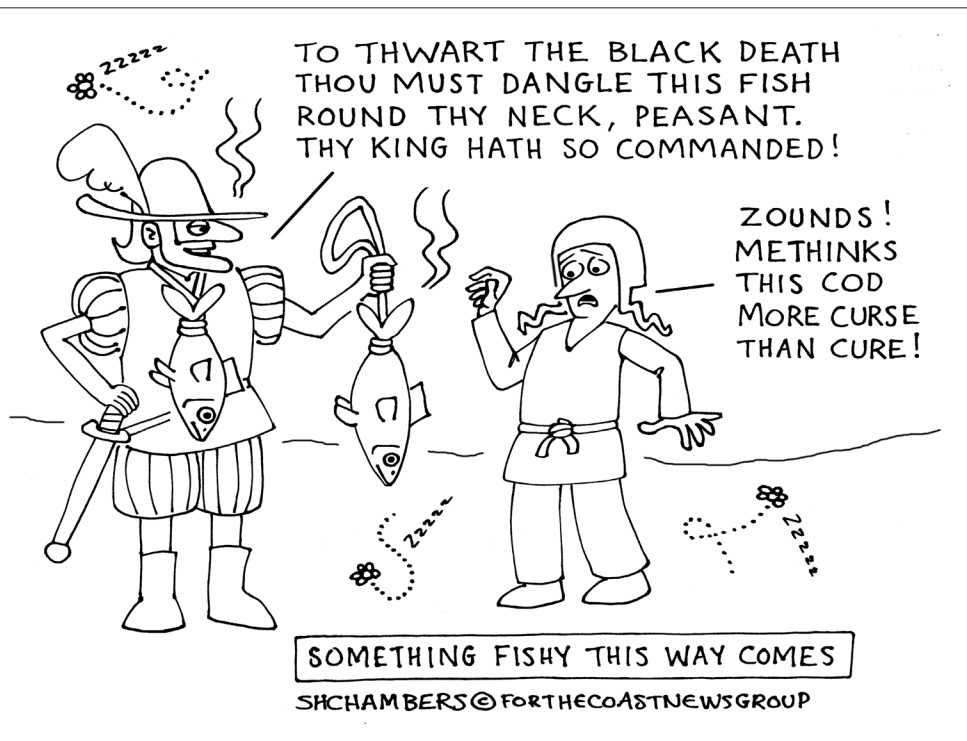
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OPINION & EDITORIAL

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Let's get it right this time

By Julie Thunder

The City of Encinitas has embarked on the process of redefining the voting district map from which our City Council members will be elected.

This redistricting provides Encinitas residents an opportunity to undo the controversial map which presently defines the boundaries of each of the four districts, and to redraw the lines so that communities are not divided and political advantage is not indulged.

Why redistrict at all?

After each census, governments across the nation must revise their voting districts to ensure equal (or nearly so) population and fair racial distribution.

Many cities and counties form citizen committees to manage the process, as SD County and Carlsbad have done.

But in Encinitas, Mayor Catherine Blakespear and her council have chosen themselves to be the ones to draw local boundaries, with input from residents.

When Encinitas first incorporated, residents voted on at-large council candidates, with the top five vote getters gaining office.

That changed in 2017 when we switched to district voting and carved up the city into four districts, with only the mayor elected city wide.

The 2017 map was one submitted anonymously by "Citizen 16." That map did not follow key redistricting guidelines, including the directive to draw boundary lines in a way that would minimize division of communities and encourage geographic compactness.

But it was still approved by Council in a 3-2 vote, with Blakespear, Lisa Shaffer, and Tasha Boerner Horvath in favor. Tony Kranz and Mark Muir opposed it.

Residents learned later that Boerner Horvath

was the anonymous "Citizen 16."

Her map was privately pitched to the Council as one which would avoid pitting any sitting council member against another in a campaign for re-election.

We also learned that the District 3 map, with its strange panhandle, was in particular intended to place Muir in a Cardiff-based district, a distinct community with which he did not have strong ties.

Muir was defeated in the 2018 election by the late Cardiff resident Jody Hubbard, who was a crony of Mayor Blakespear.

As shown, the current map splits up three of our communities: Leucadia, Old Encinitas, and New Encinitas. Granted, dividing five communities into four parts will naturally result in boundaries that won't satisfy everybody, but the notion of compactness and preservation of neighborhoods should be the starting point.

The "D3 panhandle" extending into New Encinitas violates those principles.

Our new districts should be based on the mandated redistricting principles, not designed secretly to indulge political advantage.

A proper approach would start with the original historic communities (Encinitas, Leucadia, Olivenhain, and Cardiff) and build the four districts out from those core areas to capture an equivalent population in each.

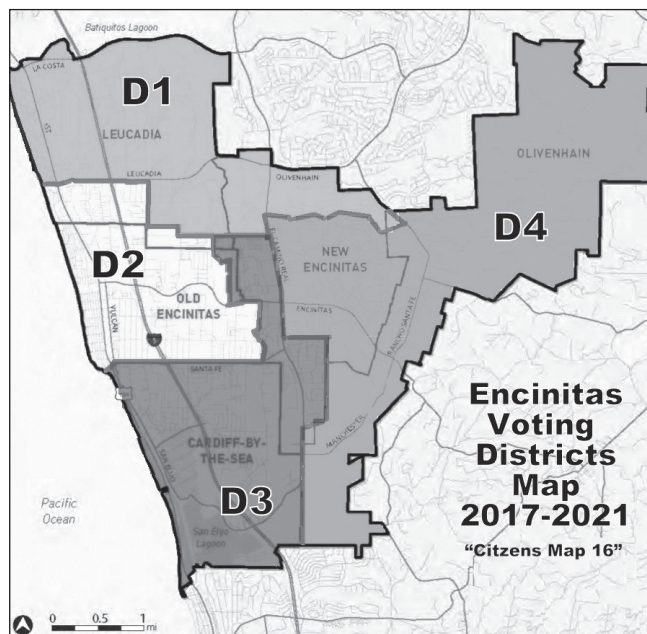
Readers who go to the city's redistricting website to build their own maps will find that some have already been made which appear to honor this process.

It's important now for residents to get involved and contribute to the drafting of district maps that minimize politics while promoting cohesion in our community.

You can start by attending the community workshop this Saturday, Oct. 16, or use the free online mapping tool to draw your own configurations — more ideas and more maps yield more choices! Learn about both here.

One final note, my hope is that in the future we can shift to five voting districts, reflecting each of our distinct locales (Cardiff, Old Encinitas, Leucadia, New Encinitas, Olivenhain) with an annually rotating mayor.

This would allow each community to have its own representation and to also have a turn at holding the office of mayor.



Don't 'Californicate' us, other states again saying

Memo to all those Californians now thinking seriously of moving to another state, thus cashing out on their high-priced homes, avoiding high prices on their new homes, but risking higher property taxes and utility bills in those new locations, while avoiding many of California's regulations on things like indoor smoking and plastic straws:

Your new neighbors might not be so happy to see you move in.

Sure, whoever you buy that next house or condo from will be delighted to greet you. But everyone else? Not by a long shot.

Anti-California sentiment began as early as the 1980s, when migrants from this state began moving to neighboring Oregon, driving up real estate prices and creating traffic headaches as more and more arrived.

Oregonians began putting up signs beside roads near their southern border. "Don't Californicate Oregon," they read — and still do in some places.

Now that sentiment has spread to a significant number of other Western states.

One candidate in 2020's election for mayor of Boise even suggested building a wall around his city to keep newcomers out, stymied mainly by the fact it would have cost \$26 billion.

Some states would apparently be glad if the constitutional guarantee of free movement between the states were amended away. Some of the Republican politicians who govern Texas, for example, have suggested their domination could end if too many Californians migrate to that relatively affordable housing state and vote Democratic.

Their rhetoric doesn't quite match that of Wayne Richey, an auto-body repair man defeated last November in his run for Boise mayor. "It's not just a California thing," he told a reporter. "It's new people. They're driving up the price of housing here so much that people I know are moving away."

Actually, 21,272 Californians moved to Idaho between July 2017 and July 2018, the latest period for which U.S. Census information is available. During the same time, 5,262 persons left Idaho for California.

So this state's net out-migration to Idaho was 16,010 during a single year.

That's just one state, helping account for California's slowest-ever decade of growth during the last 10 years and for its net loss of 40,000 persons during 2018 to out-migra-



tion.

Those Californians helped make Star, Idaho, 17 miles northwest of Boise, the fastest-growing city in both Idaho and America.

Some California officials point out that the out-migration of Californians isn't quite as unprecedented as it may seem. The state finance department, for example, noted that federal defense spending cuts in the mid-1990s spurred an even larger exodus.

Some of the California outflow making other states nervous stems from the efforts of those same states.

Take Texas, whose former governor Rick Perry spent many years making radio and TV commercials touting the advantages for businesses that moved from California to the Lone Star state.

The biggest fish to bite at this pitch, which included huge property tax exemptions and civic aid in building new plants and facilities, was Toyota, which relocated its U.S. headquarters from the Los Angeles suburb of Torrance to the Dallas suburb of Plano.

Perry never figured that many of the Toyota executives and workers moving to Texas might vote Democratic. Some lean that way, and they contributed to a narrow electoral escape in 2018 for Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz in a campaign that made Democratic rival Beto O'Rourke a national figure.

The annual inflow of about 60,000 Californians to Texas shows few signs of abating.

Combined with more political activity from the almost 3 million Latinos in Texas, they have given the Lone Star state a faintly purple hue.

Similarly, an influx of Californians working for aerospace companies that opened facilities in Phoenix and Tucson over the last 15 years has been a major factor in changing Arizona from a solidly Republican state to an electoral tossup.

So the change in California's longtime pattern of fast growth may be as bad news for some of the emigrants' new neighbors as it seems to politicians in the state they've left behind, which is about to lose one seat in Congress for the next decade.

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